Both Sahitya Akademi and NBT have widely published Tamil works and their translations. NBT participates in various international books fairs where Tamil boods are also displayed alongwith books from other Indian languages. Sahitya Akademi has been inviting Tamil writers for its seminars and workshops at international and national levels. Sahitya Akademi has elected Tamil writers its Fellows and has given awards to several authors of Tamil books. It has also given translation prizes for Tamil works.

Poverty among women

†214. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poverty among women is increasing day by day;

(b) whether Government are going to formulate any comprehensive action plan for eradication of poverty among women working in the informal area;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The estimates of poverty are not made at gender disaggregated level by the Planning Commission, which is the nodal agency in the Government in charge of poverty estimation.

(b) The following schemes are being implemented by the Government of India to address issues relating to poverty alleviation among workers in the informal area including that of women in the country, namely:

A. Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation

1. Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY);
2. The Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP);
3. The Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP);

B. Ministry of Rural Development

4. Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY);
5. Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY);
6. Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY);

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

C. Department of Women and Child Development

7. Swawlamban (NORAD);

8. Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP).

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Norms for prescribing text books

†215. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for prescribing the text-books for secondary/higher secondary classes;

(b) whether it is a fact that every new State/Central Government makes changes in the text books as it comes to power;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as a result thereof the students have to face many difficulties; and

(d) if so, what measures Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) produces model text books based on the National Curriculum Framework. State Boards of School Education are free to adopt/adapt their text books for prescription/recommendation in schools attached to them. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) prescribes text books of NCERT for secondary classes in most of the subjects. At the senior school level (+2 stage) the Board recommends text books of private publishers also. CBSE, on the recommendations of the Committee of Courses of the Board, prescribes books of regional languages prepared by respective State Governments.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

FDI guidelines for newspapers

216. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the authorities are implementing the guidelines on Foreign Direct Investment with regard to the publication of newspapers;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.